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Introduction

1. The twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 5 to 9 February 2007.

I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

2. The twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was opened at 10.15 a.m. on 5 February 2007 by the master of ceremonies. The proceedings commenced with the presentation of a short film on the issue of climate change followed by a musical performance by a group of Malaysian schoolchildren on the theme "Save a tree".

3. Opening statements were made by Mr. Rachmat Witoelar, State Minister for the Environment of Indonesia and outgoing President of the Council/Forum; Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered on his behalf by Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP; Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; and Mr. Moody Awori, Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya, speaking on behalf of Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya.[1]

II. Organization of the session (agenda item 2)

A. Attendance

4. The following 57 States members of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum were represented: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

5. The following 83 States not members of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum but members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte D'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Iceland, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

6. Observers for the Holy See and the Palestinian Authority also participated.

7. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, Barcelona Convention, Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ozone Secretariat, , Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, United Nations

[1] A fuller account of the discussions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session, including summaries of the opening and general statements and of the Council/Forum's deliberations on the substantive issues before it, is contained in the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC/24/12).

Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations University and the World Trade Organization.

8. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Labour Office, International Maritime Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations World Tourism Organization, World Bank, World Meteorological Organization.

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Development Bank, Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, Caribbean Community Secretariat, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Community, European Environment Agency, Global Environment Facility, Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, International Federation of Red Cross, League of Arab States, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, The World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Agroforestry Centre.

10. In addition, 106 non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented by observers.

B. Election of officers

11. At the opening session of the meeting, on 5 February, the Council/Forum elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Mr. Roberto Dobles Mora (Costa Rica)

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Jan Dusik (Czech Republic)
Mr. Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat (Pakistan)
Ms. Rejoyce Mabudafhasi (South Africa)

Rapporteur: Ms. Elfriede More (Austria)

12. Following his election, the President thanked the Council/Forum for entrusting him with the presidency, paid tribute to the outgoing president, Mr. Witoelar, for his inspirational leadership over the past two years and congratulated Mr. Steiner on his appointment as Executive Director of UNEP. Turning to the substantive issues before the Council/Forum, he noted that the current United Nations reform process placed emphasis on the environment and associated institutional structures. In that context, UNEP had an opportunity and an obligation to provide global leadership on environmental issues. Globalization, he noted, offered many opportunities but also required Governments to respond to new environmental challenges by creating new environmental policies and enhancing their capacity to implement existing rules. To fulfil its mandate, UNEP would need to demonstrate its financial transparency and its contribution to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and would also need strong political and financial support from Governments.

C. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

13. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of the representatives attending the session. Representatives of 57 of the 58 member States attended the session and their credentials were found to be in order. The Bureau so reported to the Council/Forum, which approved the Bureau's report at the 10th plenary meeting, on 9 February 2007.

D. Agenda

14. At the opening meeting, the Council/Forum adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council/Forum at its twenty-third session (UNEP/GC/24/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
   (a) State of the environment;
   (b) Emerging policy issues;
   (c) Coordination and cooperation with the United Nations system on environmental matters;
   (d) Coordination and cooperation with civil society;
   (e) International environmental governance;
   (f) Water policy and strategy.
5. Follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
6. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
7. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.
8. Provisional agendas, dates and venues of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
   (a) Tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
   (b) Twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the session.

E. Organization of the work of the session

15. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, the Council/Forum considered and approved the organization of work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated agenda (UNEP/GC/24/1/Add.1).

16. Pursuant to one of those recommendations, it was decided that the Council/Forum would hold ministerial consultations from the afternoon of Monday, 5 February 2007, to the morning of Thursday, 8 February 2007. The focus of those consultations would be on globalization and the environment and on the United Nations reform process, under agenda item 4 (b). It was further decided that the ministerial consultations would feature keynote speeches followed by panel and roundtable discussions. Representatives of civil society organizations were invited to participate in the consultations.

17. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Council/Forum decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, a Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole would meet concurrently with the plenary meetings of the Council/Forum and the ministerial consultations and would consider agenda items 4 (a) (Policy issues: state of the environment); 4 (c)–(f) (coordination and cooperation with the United Nations system on environmental matters; coordination and cooperation with civil society; international environmental governance; water policy and strategy); 5 (Follow-up to

the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development); 6 (Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum); 7 (Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters); and 8 (Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum; twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum).

18. It was further decided at the 1st plenary meeting that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Mr. Dusík. A decision was also made to establish a drafting group to work on draft decisions for possible adoption by the Council/Forum, to be chaired by Mr. Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat (Pakistan).

19. It was further agreed that the Council/Forum would consider agenda items 3 (Credentials of representatives), 9 (Other matters), 10 (Adoption of the report) and 11 (Closure of the session) at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Friday, 9 February 2007.

20. In considering the agenda items, the Council/Forum had before it the documentation outlined for each item in the annotated agenda for the current session (UNEP/GC/24/1/Add.1).

21. Under the item, the Council/Forum heard general statements from the representative of the Czech Republic, speaking on behalf of the Eastern European region, the representative of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the representative of Germany, speaking on behalf of the European Union.

22. Also under the present item, at the 1st plenary meeting the Executive Director invited representatives of various organizations to participate in a panel discussion on the issue of globalization and the environment in a reformed United Nations. Presentations were made by Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization; Mr. Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; Mr. Francesco Frangialli, Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization; and Ms. Tibaijuka. Owing to time constraints, no discussion took place after the presentations.

F. Ministerial consultations

23. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 5 February 2007, the Council/Forum began its consideration of agenda item 4 (b), emerging policy issues, in the form of ministerial consultations, focusing on the themes of globalization and the environment and United Nations reform.

24. The ministerial consultations on globalization and the environment began at the 2nd plenary meeting with a keynote address on the effects of globalization on the environment in China. The consultations continued at the 3rd and 4th plenary meetings, on 6 February 2007. The theme of United Nations reform was discussed at the 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on 7 February 2007. The consultations included six concurrent roundtable discussions on each theme which were intended to allow participants to explore the issues more fully in smaller groups. Panel discussions, chaired by the Executive Director, were held prior to the roundtable discussions on each theme in order to identify key issues for consideration and to stimulate debate. Panel discussions were also held at the conclusion of the roundtable discussions on each theme, at which the panellists summarized and commented on the issues raised during the discussions.

25. The President of the Council/Forum prepared a draft summary of the views expressed during the consultations on each theme. Each summary was circulated as a conference room paper and presented to ministers and heads of delegation at the 7th plenary meeting, on the morning of 8 February 2007. It was noted that the summaries reflected a variety of views expressed, rather than a consensus. Following their consideration, the summaries were finalized at the 8th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 8 February 2007. The President then consolidated them into a single President's summary, which he presented to the Council/Forum at the 9th plenary meeting, on the morning of 9 February. The Council/Forum took note of the President's summary, which is set out in annex II to the present report, noting that while it reflected a variety of views expressed during the ministerial consultations it did not constitute a consensus text.

G. Report of the Committee of the Whole

26. The Committee of the Whole held nine meetings, under the chairmanship of Mr. Dusík, from 5 to 9 February, to consider the agenda items assigned to it. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 9 February, the Council/Forum took note of the report of the Committee of the Whole. The report is set out in annex II to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC/24/12).

H. Policy statement by the Executive Director

27. At the 2nd plenary meeting, the Executive Director delivered a policy statement in which he addressed various issues including the role and importance of the Council/Forum in addressing current environmental challenges; the work of UNEP in 2006; the efforts that had commenced to reform the programme of work and financial management of UNEP and information and communication technology within UNEP; recruitment of staff since his appointment; and the principles that he and UNEP senior managers were using to guide their decision-making. The policy statement is set out in annex III to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC/24/12).

III. Matters requiring the special attention of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council

A. President's summary of the discussions by ministers and heads of delegation at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme

28. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 9 February 2007, the President of the Council/Forum presented to the ministers and heads of delegation a refinement and consolidation of the summary reports of the ministerial consultations on the themes of globalization and environment and United Nations reform. The summary, which is contained in annex II to the present report, reflects the major thrusts and commonalities of the rich and interactive dialogue of the roundtable discussions rather than a consensus view on all points.

B. Provisional agendas, dates and venues for the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Environment Forum and the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

29. By its decision 24/15, the Council/Forum decided to hold its tenth special session and its twenty-fifth session in February 2008 and 2009 respectively. Further to the decision of the Bureau of the Council/Forum on 13 March 2007, the dates and venue of the tenth special session and the twenty-fifth regular have been decided as follows: 20–22 February 2008 in the Principality of Monaco and 16–20 February 2009 in Nairobi at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme.

C. International environmental governance

30. By its decision 24/1, the Council/Forum took note of General Assembly resolution 61/205 of 20 December 2006 on the issue of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum while noting the differences in views expressed so far on that important but complex issue. The Council/Forum also requested the Executive Director to continue to give high priority to the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building as part of the implementation of the approved programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme.

31. The Council/Forum also decided to support the endeavours of the United Nations Environment Programme to enhance information networks at the regional and national levels; emphasized the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII); and requested the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation and synergies among multilateral environmental agreements and to enhance coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group.

D. Mercury

32. By its decision 24/3 IV, the Council/Forum concluded that further long-term international action was required to reduce risks by mercury to human health and the environment and that, for that reason, the options of enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments would be reviewed and assessed in order to make progress in addressing that issue.

E. Small island developing States

33. By its decision 24/6, the Council/Forum requested the Executive Director to elaborate further activities of the United Nations Environment Programme on small island developing States with a view to identifying further efforts including on the issue of adaptation to the impacts of climate change, taking into account General Assembly resolution 61/196 of 20 December 2006 and to properly mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy into the work of the United Nations Environment Programme.

F. Committing resources towards the implementation of decision 23/11

34. By its decision 24/7, the Council/Forum urged the Executive Director to continue strongly to implement the Gender Plan of Action and to strengthen the capacity of the initiated Global Network of Women Ministers of the Environment.

G. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009

35. By its decision 24/9, the Council/Forum approved the programme and support budget for 2008–2009 and approved the appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 152 million United States dollars.

H. Declaration of the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification

36. By its decision 24/14, the Council/Forum recommended to the General Assembly that it declare, during its 62nd session, the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade of Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification.

I. Updated water policy and strategy of UNEP

37. By decision its 24/16, the Council/Forum adopted the water policy and strategy for the period 2007–2012 and provided the Executive Director with guidance for its implementation.

IV. Adoption of decisions

38. At the tenth plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 9 February, the Council/Forum adopted the following decisions:

Decision no.	Title
24/1	Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance
24/2	World environmental situation
24/3	Chemicals management
24/4	Prevention of illegal international traffic
24/5	Waste management
24/6	Small island developing States
24/7	Committing resources toward the implementation of decision 23/11
24/8	Support to Africa in environmental management and protection
24/9	Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009
24/10	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
24/11	Intensified environmental education for achieving policy goals and targets
24/12	South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development
24/13	Amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility
24/14	Declaration of the Decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification
24/15	Provisional agendas, dates and venues of the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum
24/16	Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

39. With the exception of decisions 24/3 and 24/4, the Council/Forum adopted the foregoing decisions on the basis of the draft decisions approved by the Committee of the Whole. The Council/Forum adopted decisions 24/3 and 24/4 on the basis of the draft decisions approved by the contact group on chemicals established by the Committee of the Whole. The proceedings of the Committee, including its consideration of the draft decisions, are described in its report, which is contained in annex II to the proceedings of the session.

40. Following the adoption of the decision on the provisional agendas, dates and venues of the tenth special and twenty-fifth regular sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the representative of Monaco made a statement in which he underscored Monaco's firm commitment to sustainable development and environmental matters and indicated that Monaco would be honoured to host the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in February 2008. The Executive Director welcomed that offer and said that a final decision concerning the venue of the session would be made within a month of the closure of the current session.

41. The representative of China requested the Bureau to set dates for the tenth special and twenty-fifth regular sessions of the Council/Forum that would not coincide with the Chinese New Year celebrations, which would take place in February in both 2008 and 2009.

V. Policy issues (agenda items 4 (a) (State of the environment), 4 (c) (Coordination and cooperation with the United Nations system on environmental matters), 4 (d) (Coordination and cooperation with civil society), 4 (e) (International environmental governance) and 4 (f) (Water policy and strategy))

VI. Follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (agenda item 5)

VII. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 6)

VIII. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters (agenda item 7)

IX. Provisional agendas, dates and venues of the tenth special session and the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 8)

42. Agenda items 4 (a), 4 (c)–(f), 5, 6, 7 and 8 were considered by the Committee of the Whole. The report on the deliberations of the Committee is contained in annex II to the proceedings of the session.

43. The decisions adopted by the Council/Forum on the items are set out in annex I to the present report and are listed in chapter IV above.

X. Other matters (agenda item 9)

44. The Council/Forum took up no other matters during the current session.

XI. Adoption of the report (agenda item 10)

45. The proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC/24/12) were adopted by the Council/Forum at its 10th plenary meeting, on 9 February 2007, on the basis of the draft proceedings (UNEP/GC/24/L.3 and Add.1 and UNEP/GC/24/CW/L.1 and Add.1.) which had been circulated and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with their finalization.

XII. Closure of the session (agenda item 11)

46. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was declared closed at 5.20 p.m. on Friday, 9 February 2007.

Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session

Contents

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
24/1	Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance	9 February 2007	12
24/2	World environmental situation	9 February 2007	15
24/3	Chemicals management	9 February 2007	17
24/4	Prevention of illegal international traffic	9 February 2007	21
24/5	Waste management	9 February 2007	23
24/6	Small island developing States	9 February 2007	24
24/7	Committing resources toward the implementation of decision 23/11	9 February 2007	25
24/8	Support to Africa in environmental management and protection	9 February 2007	25
24/9	Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009	9 February 2007	27
24/10	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions	9 February 2007	31
24/11	Intensified environmental education for achieving policy goals and targets	9 February 2007	34
24/12	South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development	9 February 2007	35
24/13	Amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility	9 February 2007	36
24/14	Declaration of the Decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification	9 February 2007	36
24/15	Provisional agendas, dates and venues of the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum	9 February 2007	37
24/16	Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme	9 February 2007	39

Decision 24/1: Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme[2] and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,[3]

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 December 2003, 59/226 of 22 December 2004, 60/189 of 22 December 2005 and 61/205 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling further its decisions SS.VIII/1 of 31 March 2004 and 23/1 of 25 February 2005,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[4] which emphasized the need for full implementation of decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002,

Emphasizing that all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance contained in decision SS. VII/1 should be fully implemented,

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[5] which it adopted by its decision 23/1 of 25 February 2005,

Recognizing the need, among others, to accelerate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including through the provision of additional financial resources for that purpose,

Recalling paragraph 169 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome[6] and noting its ongoing consideration, particularly through the General Assembly informal consultations on the institutional framework for United Nations environmental activities,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on international environmental governance,[7] on the measures taken for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and a proposal for the further implementation of the Plan in the 2008-2009 biennium[8] and on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme,[9]

I

Universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. *Takes note* of General Assembly resolution 61/205 of 20 December 2006 in which the General Assembly decided to consider, if necessary, the issue of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme at its sixty-fourth session, while noting the differences in views expressed so far on this important but complex issue;

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2 Governing Council decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997, annex.

3 Report of the Governing Council on the Work of its global ministerial environment forum/sixth special session, UNEP/GCSS.VI/9, annex I.

4 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

5 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

6 General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

7 UNEP/GC/24/3.

8 UNEP/GC/24/3/Add.1.

9 UNEP/GC/24/3/Add.2.

II

Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to give high priority to the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building as part of the implementation of the approved programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Encourages* Governments to support the full and effective implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including through the provision of adequate resources;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to present progress reports on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan on an annual basis to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, indicating clearly the ongoing activities and results, including the allocated budgets, that fall within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan, as well as a biannual summary of activities and results;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen United Nations Environment Programme regional offices in order to contribute to the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan;

III

Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

6. *Welcomes* the consultative process on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme as facilitated by the Executive Director and the valuable inputs made by Governments and other stakeholders which have resulted in the draft proposal of the Environment Watch strategy,[10]

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to consult Governments, other United Nations bodies, financial institutions including the Global Environment Facility, the private sector and civil society, multilateral environmental agreements, the scientific community including global observing systems and other partners with a view to improving further the proposed Environment Watch strategy as an integral part of the wider strategic vision of the United Nations Environment Programme, to report back to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session with a revised proposal which should include component cost estimates for work proposed for the 2010–2011 biennium and to make those estimates available to the Committee of Permanent Representatives early in the budget process;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, including through the reinforcement of the scientific capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the area of protection of the environment;

9. *Reaffirms also* environmental early warning, assessment and monitoring of the state of the global environment as core functions of the United Nations Environment Programme and recognizes the potential value of a network that draws on the experience of existing bodies, including academic institutions and centres of excellence, and the scientific competence of specialized agencies and the scientific subsidiary bodies of multilateral environmental agreements;

10. *Underlines* the vital importance in a globalizing world of enhancing infrastructures and capacities which can sustain cooperation on environmental data and information and which can lead to reduced transaction costs for national reporting, natural resource accounting and decision-making and the integration of environment into development, the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the achievement of national and international development goals, taking into consideration existing infrastructures, mechanisms and tools in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximize synergies in the sharing of data and information;

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[10] UNEP/GC/24/3/Add.2.

11. *Supports* United Nations Environment Programme endeavours to enhance information networks at the regional and national levels;

IV

Strengthening the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme

12. *Emphasizes* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Fund, in the context of the United Nations regular budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII);

13. *Reaffirms* its support for the provision of adequate, stable and predictable financing of the United Nations Environment Programme as an essential prerequisite for the strengthening of its capacity and functions as well as for the effective coordination of the environmental component of sustainable development;

14. *Also encourages* Governments, in order to strengthen further the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme and increase the level of the financial reserve as requested in paragraph 8 of Governing Council decision 24/10 of 9 February 2007, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, to make voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund starting in 2007 in an amount equal to or greater than that suggested by the extended pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions or on the basis of any of the other voluntary options listed in paragraph 18 of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director, in accordance with paragraph 19 of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1, to notify all United Nations Member States of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions which he intends to propose for the biennium 2008–2009 and urges each Member State to inform the Executive Director whether it will use the proposed voluntary indicative scale of contributions;

16. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report to the Governing Council for consideration at its twenty-fifth session assessing the operation of the extended pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions and the other voluntary options listed in paragraph 18 of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue his efforts in seeking an increase in funding, from all sources, for strengthening the financial base of the United Nations Environment Programme;

18. *Encourages* Governments to the extent feasible to move towards contributions to the Environment Fund in preference to contributions to earmarked trust funds, with a view to enhancing the role of the Governing Council in determining the programme of work and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

V

Issues related to multilateral environmental agreements

19. *Takes note* of the activities undertaken by the Executive Director to improve the effectiveness of, and the coordination and synergy among, multilateral environmental agreements, as well as those activities supporting Governments in their efforts to better implement, comply with and enforce multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties to such agreements and the need to promote the environmental dimension of sustainable development among other relevant United Nations bodies;

20. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Environment Programme to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to facilitate further their implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;

21. *Requests* the Executive Director to build capacity and, upon request, to assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to integrate the objectives of

multilateral environmental agreements into national sustainable development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers;

22. *Also requests* the Executive Director to assist Governments, where appropriate, to develop strategies for facilitating the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the national level;

23. *Welcomes* the decisions of the conference of the parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its second meeting, the conference of the parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade at its third meeting and the conference of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its eighth meeting to address the issue of further improving cooperation and coordination among the three conventions and, to that end, to establish an ad hoc joint working group consisting of selected Parties to the respective conventions;

24. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions to enhance synergies between the relevant programme activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and the programme activities to be carried out under those conventions;

VI

Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group

25. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in enhanced coordination and collaboration across the United Nations system in order to achieve greater coherence in environmental activities;

26. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote coordination across the United Nations system on environmental activities, in particular those relevant to the operations of the United Nations system, keeping in mind paragraphs 36 and 37 of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1, through the work of the Environment Management Group.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/2: World environmental situation

The Governing Council,

Pursuing its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, including to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance are prioritized and receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments and to promote the contribution of relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information,

Recalling its decision 22/1 of 7 February 2003 on early warning, assessment and monitoring and decision 23/6 of 25 February 2005 on keeping the world environmental situation under review,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 61/222 of 20 December 2006 on oceans and the law of the sea,

Noting the findings contained in many environmental assessment reports and publications released after its twenty-third session, in particular those prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with partners,

1. *Invites* Governments, other United Nations bodies, financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to consider the environmental challenges which are reported in, *inter alia*:

(a) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;

(b) One Planet, Many People: Atlas of Our Changing Environment;

(c) United Nations World Water Development Report 2: Water a Shared Responsibility,

(d) Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2006 - World Meteorological Organization Global Ozone Research and Monitoring Project—Report No. 50;

(e) Global Biodiversity Outlook 2;

(f) Deserts Environment Outlook;

(g) International Waters Regional Assessments in a Global Perspective: The GIWA Final Report-Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA);

(h) Global Environment Outlook Yearbooks 2006 and 2007;

(i) Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Summary for Policymakers. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

(j) Second Africa Environment Outlook;

(k) Africa's Lakes: Atlas of our Changing Environment, in the light of the growing awareness of their complexity;

2. *Notes* with concern that the documented environmental degradation and widespread changes resulting from human activity as well as natural processes and the loss of ecosystem services are barriers to the attainment of internationally agreed development goals;

3. *Emphasizes* that capacity-building and technology support in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as elaborated in the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, need to be strengthened with the assistance of the United Nations at the national and regional levels;

4. *Calls on* Governments and intergovernmental organizations to continue to cooperate in efforts aimed at mitigation of and adaptation to adverse environmental change, including through enhancing the knowledge base for more integrated responses;,

5. *Welcomes* General Assembly resolution 60/30 of 29 November 2005 on oceans and the law of the sea, by which the General Assembly established the Ad Hoc Steering Group for the "Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment", launched as a preparatory stage toward the establishment of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, to be jointly implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization;

6. *Calls* on Governments and experts to contribute to the finalization of the fourth Global Environment Outlook report in accordance with the process outlined during the global intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation on the fourth Global Environment Outlook assessment held in Nairobi on 19 and 20 February 2005 by, among other things, reviewing the summary for decision makers in 2007, participating in the second global intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation in September 2007 and supporting outreach activities relating to the fourth Global Environment Outlook report;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to present the findings of the fourth Global Environment Outlook report to the Governing Council at its tenth special session in order to facilitate consideration of the findings and their potential implications, for example for the strategic direction of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and for the performance of the functions of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations system and in the provision of services to Member States of the United Nations;

8. *Invites* Governments, if necessary in consultation with the United Nations Environment Programme, to consider undertaking a systematic review of the effectiveness of their legislative, institutional, financial, implementation and enforcement measures at the national level in the sense of addressing the escalating degradation of the global environment in an efficient and responsible way, drawing upon their own resources;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and fully respecting the mandate of that Convention, to continue its work, taking into account the findings of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/3: Chemicals management

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 of 7 February 1997, 20/23 of 4 February 1999, SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002, 22/4 of 7 February 2003, 23/9 of 25 February 2005 and SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006 concerning global policies related to chemicals management and the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

Recalling its decision 23/9 II of 25 February 2005 urging the further development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management and its decision SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006 endorsing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006,

Acknowledging the widespread concerns over the serious adverse effects of mercury on human health and the environment and the urgent need for international action,

Noting the Budapest Statement on Mercury, Lead and Cadmium developed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety held in Budapest, Hungary, from 25 to 29 September 2006,

Expressing appreciation for the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization Global Mercury Project on Small-Scale Gold Mining,

Taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as reflected in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[11] in addition to the other relevant Rio Declaration Principles,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on chemicals management,[12]

I
Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations

1. *Reinforces* the applicability of decision 24/1 to the effective management of chemicals;

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11 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1) vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

12 UNEP/GC/24/7.

II

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

2. *Welcomes* the progress made so far in implementing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, especially the establishment of the Quick Start Programme to support initial capacity-building activities and the regional meetings held so far or planned, and takes note of the African regional action plan adopted by the participants in the first African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which took place from 11 to 14 September 2006;[13]

3. *Also welcomes* the important contributions of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Strategic Approach process;

4. *Expresses appreciation* for the co-responsibility of the World Health Organization in the Strategic Approach secretariat and its belief that such cooperation is of the utmost importance for the success and the intersectoral nature of the Strategic Approach;

5. *Underlines* the importance of the Strategic Approach, its overarching goal and its effective implementation and therefore urges all stakeholders to integrate the Strategic Approach into their activities as a priority;

6. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and others in a position to do so to contribute financially and in kind to the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund;

7. *Takes note of* the United Nations Environment Programme's plan of work in support of the implementation of the Strategic Approach and requests the Executive Director to encourage the full participation of Governments and other stakeholders in that plan of work, including initiatives related to indicators and tools for evaluation, and to report on progress to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth session;

8. *Encourages* the Strategic Approach secretariat to explore ways to make more effective use of the funding provisions of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to identify those areas that can support implementation of appropriate and relevant objectives of the Strategic Approach;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session on the results of the activities undertaken in accordance with the preceding paragraph;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to make provision for the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme's responsibilities under the Strategic Approach;

11. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue the collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and to prepare a report for consideration by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session on endeavours by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in implementing the Strategic Approach;

III

Lead and cadmium

12. *Acknowledges* the data and information gaps identified in the United Nations Environment Programme Interim Scientific Reviews on Lead and Cadmium[14] and that further action is needed to fill

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[13] SAICM/RM/Afr.1/6, annex V.

[14] UNEP/GC/24/INF/16.

those data and information gaps, taking into account the specific situation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

13. *Encourages* efforts by Governments and others to reduce risks to human health and the environment of lead and cadmium throughout the whole life cycle of those substances;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide available information on lead and cadmium to address the data and information gaps identified in the Interim Reviews and to compile an inventory of existing risk management measures;

IV
Mercury

15. *Acknowledges* the progress made within the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme since 2005, including the establishment of and progress made under partnerships and other initiatives;

16. *Recognizes* that current efforts to reduce risks from mercury are not sufficient to address the global challenges posed by mercury;

17. *Concludes*, therefore, that further long-term international action is required to reduce risks to human health and the environment and that, for this reason, the options of enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments will be reviewed and assessed in order to make progress in addressing this issue;

18. *Recognizes* that a range of activities are required to address the challenges posed by mercury, including substitution of products and technologies; technical assistance and capacity-building; development of national policy and regulation; data collection, research and information provision, bearing in mind the need to provide assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

19. *Commits* to increased efforts to address the global challenges to reduce risks from releases of mercury, taking into account the following priorities:

(a) To reduce atmospheric mercury emissions from human sources;

(b) To find environmentally sound solutions for the management of waste containing mercury and mercury compounds;

(c) To reduce global mercury demand related to use in products and production processes;

(d) To reduce the global mercury supply, including considering curbing primary mining and taking into account a hierarchy of sources;

(e) To find environmentally sound storage solutions for mercury;

(f) To address, considering the results of the analysis referred to in paragraph 24 (d) below, the remediation of existing contaminated sites affecting public and environmental health;

(g) To increase knowledge on areas such as inventories, human and environmental exposure, environmental monitoring and socio-economic impacts;

20. *Urges* Governments to gather information on means to reduce risk that may be caused by the supply of mercury, considering:

(a) Reduced reliance on primary mercury mining in favor of environmentally preferable sources of mercury such as recycled mercury;

(b) Options and solutions for the long-term storage of mercury;

(c) Regional activities to improve data on imports and exports of mercury and enforcement of customs control through, for example, the Green Customs initiative;

(d) The market and socio-economic effects of the activities contemplated above;

21. *Urges* Governments to provide the information referred to in the preceding paragraph to the Executive Director;

22. *Also urges* Governments to develop and analyse options for addressing the trade and supply of mercury, including considering environmentally sound storage and curbing primary mining, drawing on the United Nations Environment Programme report on mercury supply, trade, and demand,[15] and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, upon request, to assist developing countries in this undertaking through the provision of technical assistance;

23. *Further urges* Governments to provide the information referred to in the preceding paragraph to the Executive Director;

24. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report, drawing on, among other things, ongoing work in other forums addressing:

Atmospheric emission

(a) Best available data on mercury emissions and trends including where possible an analysis by country, region and sector, including a consideration of factors driving such trends and applicable regulatory mechanisms;

(b) Current results from modelling on a global scale and from other information sources on the contribution of regional emissions to deposition which may result in adverse effects and the potential benefits from reducing such emissions, taking into account the efforts of the Fate and Transport partnership established under the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme;

(c) An overview of sector-based best practices for reducing mercury emissions, including costs where possible and an evaluation of emission reduction scenarios;

Site-based contamination

(d) An analysis of information on the extent of contaminated sites, the risks to public and environmental health of mercury compound releases from such sites, environmentally sound mitigation options and associated costs and the contribution of contaminated sites to global releases;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to facilitate work between the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and Governments, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the partnerships established under the mercury programme, as appropriate:

(a) To improve global understanding of international mercury emissions sources, fate and transport;

(b) To promote the development of inventories of mercury uses and emissions;

26. *Urges* Governments and other stakeholders to continue and enhance their support of the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme partnerships, through the provision of technical and financial resources, as a means to achieve reductions in demand for and releases of mercury and thereby to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from mercury;

27. *Requests* the Executive Director, working in consultation with Governments and other stakeholders, to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme partnerships by:

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[15] UNEP/GC/24/INF/16.

(a) Developing an overarching framework for the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership through, among other means, organizing a meeting of partners and other stakeholders, including:

(i) Development of business plans;

(ii) Identification of partnership goals;

(iii) Development of operational guidelines;

(b) Expanding the number and scope of partnerships to include new, growing or related sectors such as vinyl chloride monomer production, non-ferrous metals mining and cement production and waste combustion;

(c) Enhancing the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership through, among other things, increased cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, exploration of innovative market-based approaches and dissemination of alternative capture and recycling technologies;

(d) Endeavouring to secure adequate funds for Global Mercury Partnership efforts;

28. *Decides*, further, to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of Governments, regional economic integration organizations and stakeholder representatives to review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments;

29. *Decides* that the ad hoc open-ended working group will be guided by the priorities set out in paragraph 19;

30. *Adopts* the following terms of reference for the ad hoc open-ended working group:

(a) Consider the reports and information referred to in paragraphs 20, 22 and 24 and a compilation by the Executive Director of other available relevant information;

(b) Examine, for each of the priorities set out in paragraph 19:

(i) The range of available response measures and strategies;

(ii) The feasibility and effectiveness of voluntary and legally binding approaches;

(iii) Implementation options;

(iv) Costs and benefits of response measures and strategies;

(c) Also examine each of these response measures and strategies with respect to, among other things, the following considerations:

(i) The respective capacities and capabilities of developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(ii) The need for capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer and suitable sources of finance;

31. *Invites* Governments to consider convening national and regional preparatory workshops, involving relevant stakeholders;

32. *Decides* that the ad hoc open-ended working group will:

(a) Meet twice: once before the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and once between that special session and the Council/Forum's twenty-fifth regular session;

(b) Provide a progress report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session and a final report reflecting all views expressed and presenting options and any consensus recommendations to the Council/Forum at its twenty-fifth regular session;

33. *Decides* that the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session may provide further guidance to the ad hoc open-ended working group;

34. *Also decides* to consider the outcomes of the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group at its twenty-fifth regular session, with a view to taking a decision on the final report;

35. *Requests* the Executive Director to compile other available relevant information for consideration by the ad hoc open-ended working group;

36. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the present decision, in particular with regard to the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the ad hoc working group;

37. *Requests* the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics to serve the Ad Hoc Working Group as secretariat and to prepare the analytical and summary reports necessary for its work;

38. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/4: Prevention of illegal international trade

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21[16] on the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products,

Noting the recommendation in subparagraph 23 (e) of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on promotion of efforts to prevent international illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals,[17]

Noting also the resolution regarding prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products adopted at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety,[18]

Recalling its decision SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006 in which it endorsed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and recalling in particular paragraph 18 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach, dealing with illegal international traffic,

Noting the outcome of the United Nations Environment Programme Symposium on Illegal International Traffic in Hazardous Chemicals that took place in Prague, Czech Republic, from 6 to 8 November 2006,[19]

Aware of the concerns of all countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, on the prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals,

Welcoming, in this respect, decision VIII/1 of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, relating

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[16] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1) vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[17] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[18] Fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, final report (IFCS/FORUM IV/16w),

[19] http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/prague_nov06/default.html.

to the illegal dumping of hazardous waste from the Probo Koala tanker in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in August 2006, [20]

Recognizing that international cooperation between countries concerned is essential to the prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals,

Noting also the urgent need for Governments to take action at the national level to address problems of illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals,

1. *Invites* Governments to consider ratifying or acceding to relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote the implementation of paragraph 18 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;

4. *Invites* the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to present common recommendations to the governing bodies of its participating organizations for consideration within their respective mandates on the prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals;

5. *Calls upon* Governments and other actors to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with the necessary financial and technical resources for undertaking the action referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision to enable the full and effective implementation of the decision;

6. *Invites* the World Customs Organization to consider participating in the activities contemplated in the present decision;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in implementing the present decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/5: Waste management

The Governing Council,

Recalling decision SS.VIII/4 of 31 March 2004 on waste management and the proceedings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session,

Recalling also the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,[21]

Acknowledging the work related to waste management under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, as well as related work by the United Nations Environment Programme, including in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and activities by other relevant United Nations bodies, international institutions, forums and processes,

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[20] Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal on its eighth meeting (UNEP/CHW.8/16), annex I.

[21] Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/326), annex.

Noting decision VIII/34 on resource mobilization and sustainable financing adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting, annex I,[22]

Also noting the important role that national programmes, plans and strategies on sustainable development, environmental protection and poverty eradication can play in tackling national waste problems,

Acknowledging the work undertaken to promote the life cycle approach to waste management, inter alia under the 10-Year Framework Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech Process), the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and the Group of Eight's "3R" (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiative,

Noting that the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities addresses, among other things, problems associated with solid wastes as they pollute coastal and marine areas,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, within the availability of extra-budgetary resources, to prepare, in consultation with the secretariat of the Basel Convention, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant United Nations bodies, international institutions, forums and processes, for consideration at the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, a report which should:

(a) Contain a review of the work being carried out or planned by relevant organizations, institutions, forums and processes in the field of waste management;

(b) Identify successful examples and possible gaps, taking into account the possible need for further work, such as guidelines, on integrated waste management; the need for a compilation of best practices related to integrated waste management, in particular at the local level and in developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and the need to strengthen south-south cooperation;

(c) Provide tangible recommendations on how to bridge any gaps, on who should be responsible for taking the necessary action and on how to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop their own waste management strategies;

2. *Invites* the Executive Director to work in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies in the area of waste management, taking into consideration the respective roles and responsibilities of each organization, in order to improve coordination and avoid duplication of work, and to report on the outcome of the process at the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme to support waste management in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with other organizations as appropriate and within available resources, to continue to implement existing demonstration projects and develop new ones in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on integrated waste management under the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and to disseminate widely the results and lessons learned;

5. *Invites* international organizations and governments to provide resources and technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enable them to pursue actively integrated waste management.

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9 February 2007

[22] Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal on its eighth meeting (UNEP/CHW.8/16).

Decision 24/6: Small island developing States

The Governing Council,

Recalling its previous decisions on small island developing State activities, particularly its decision 23/5 of 25 February 2005,

Recognizing General Assembly resolution 61/196 of 20 December 2006 concerning follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[23]

Acknowledging the findings and predictions of recent scientific and economic reports on the adverse impacts of climate change on small island developing States, particularly part A of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,[24]

1. *Commends* the Executive Director for his progress report on small island developing State activities in response to decision 23/5;[25]

2. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Executive Director in carrying out activities concerning small island developing States in various regions under the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Reiterates* that small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation, especially the effects of climate change and sea level rise, and that international cooperation towards strengthening their adaptive resilience to address such vulnerability is urgently needed;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to further enhance United Nations Environment Programme activities on small island developing States with a view to identifying further efforts, including any institutional arrangements, taking fully into account operative paragraph 8 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/196, to mainstream the Mauritius Strategy into the work of the United Nations Environment Programme properly;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to enhance the United Nations Environment Programme's efforts to address the issue of adaptation to the impacts of climate change in small island developing State and low lying coastal States and to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's links with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant bodies;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision at its twenty-fifth session.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

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23 *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* (A/CONF/207/11) (United Nations publication Sales No. E.05.II.A.4), resolution 1, annex.

24 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group I, Summary for Policy Makers, issued on 2 February 2007 (available online at http://www.ipcc.ch/).

25 UNEP/GC/24/5.

Decision 24/7: Committing resources toward the implementation of decision 23/11

The Governing Council,

Recalling principle 20 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[26] goals 3 and 7 of the Millennium Declaration,[27] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[28] and paragraph 20 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[29]

Welcoming the important cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Network of Women Ministers of the Environment,

Recalling decision 23/11 of 25 February 2005 on gender equality in the field of environment,

1. *Urges* the Executive Director to continue strongly to implement the United Nations Environment Programme Gender Plan of Action, including the projects on gender equality and the environment referred to in the Plan of Action;

2. *Invites* Governments to make voluntary financial contributions to facilitate the provision of adequate resources to implement the Gender Plan of Action fully;

3. *Urges* the Executive Director to develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to implement the Gender Plan of Action effectively;

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/8: Support to Africa in environmental management and protection

The Governing Council,

Aware that despite its abundant promise and potential, Africa is beset by environmental, social and economic crises which have made it one of the world's foremost environment and development challenges,

Also aware that the agreements reached at numerous international gatherings routinely single out the problems of Africa for special attention and that reference to the special needs of the continent in the 2005 World Summit Outcome[30] is a powerful reminder of the depth of concern over and commitment to Africa,

Further aware that the international community continues to accord the special needs of Africa a high degree of attention as evident and further reinforced by several international declarations, resolutions and decisions, including decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programmes on support to Africa,

Recognizing that the environmental challenges facing Africa continue to be of unparalleled severity and that the degradation of the African environment continues unabated in spite of the sustained effort of African Governments and the assistance of the international community,

Noting General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the new agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which, among other things, endorses the recommendation of the United Nations

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26 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1) vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

27 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

28 Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/Conf.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

29 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

30 General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

Secretary-General that the New Partnership for Africa's Development should be the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development,

Noting also that the New Partnership for Africa's Development will be implemented largely through national mechanisms and subregional economic communities in Africa with the support of the African Development Bank and other partners, including multilateral development banks,

Noting with satisfaction the commencement of the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development under the guidance of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and with technical support from the United Nations Environment Programme,

Welcoming the support provided by all development partners towards the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and environmental protection,

Acknowledging the role of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa project in promoting efforts to build the capacity of African States in the development and implementation of environmental laws and policy,

Recognizing that in its resolution 60/222 of 23 November 2005 on progress in the implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged the various important initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years, including those of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Group of Eight Action Plan for Africa, those of the European Union and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and the report of the Commission for Africa[31] and the Africa Partnership Forum, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives in Africa,

Further recognizing that paragraph 169 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome[32] underscores the need to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework,

Applauding the decision by the United Nations Secretary General to make Africa the focus of many of his priorities,

Acknowledging the initiative of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to link sustainable development and poverty reduction, as stated in the second Africa Environment Outlook report,

Welcoming the commendable efforts by the Executive Director in the support given to Africa,

Welcoming other programmes and projects to promote environmental protection and natural resources management in Africa such as the Congo Basin Initiative and the Water for the Poor Initiative,

1. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Environment Programme, given its strategic location in Africa, should take a leading role in enhancing support for the continent's environmental and natural resource management efforts and should spearhead international cooperation in collaboration with relevant United Nations and other institutions in effectively tackling the complex task of ensuring environmental sustainability, in particular through the New Partnership for African Development and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;[33]

2. *Reaffirms* that support to Africa as identified in Governing Council decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998 should be further enhanced taking into account the current situation and needs of the region;

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31 *Our Common Interest: Report of the Commission for Africa*, March 2005 (http://www.commissionforafrica.org/english/report/thereport/english/11-03-05_cr_report.pdf).

32 General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

33 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

3. *Calls upon* African Governments to take primary action and responsibility for the sustainable development of their respective countries;

4. *Invites* Governments to support the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa project and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of extra budgetary resources, to expand the Partnership to enable it to provide support to all African States and for programming purposes to integrate it into the regular programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to support the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, particularly within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Union and in the context of the development and implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to establish working relationships with the proposed specialized technical committees of the African Union, particularly the technical committee responsible for the environment, in order to facilitate the integration of environmental issues into the work of the institutional dispensation of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to work closely with partners, especially the subregional economic communities in Africa, the African Development Bank and other United Nations organizations, to support African countries in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[34]

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within available means, to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Africa in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan;

9. *Invites* the Executive Director to work closely with the African Union Commission, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the African Ministers' Council on Water, the Forum for African Ministers on Energy, the African Energy Commission, regional economic communities and the New Partnership for Africa's Development secretariat in their efforts to implement policy-oriented assessments on the environment of the African Union Commission and the African regional economic communities upon request and subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources and through their work programmes;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision, together with specific proposals and recommendations, to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/9: Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009

The Governing Council,

Having considered the proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2008–2009[35] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[36]

1. *Approves* the programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;

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34 General Assembly resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002.
35 UNEP/GC/24/9.
36 UNEP/GC/24/9/Add.1.

2. *Approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 152 million United States dollars for the purposes indicated below:

2008–2009 biennial programme and support budget (in thousands of United States dollars)	
Programme of work	
Environmental assessment and early warning	26,950
Environmental law and conventions	13,359
Environmental policy implementation	19,182
Technology, industry and economics	27,694
Regional cooperation and representation	33,779
Communications and public information	9,036
Total programme of work	**130,000**
Fund programme reserve	**6,000**
Support budget	**16,000**
Grand total	**152,000**

3. *Urges* Governments to support further strengthening of the Environment Fund through the options envisaged in Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002, including the extended pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the prudent and responsible manner in which the Executive Director has exercised his budgetary and financial discretion;

5. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices in other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between subprogrammes up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources are reallocated;

6. *Requests* that, should the Executive Director need to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of an appropriation, he do so in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

7. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of allocations for programme activities to bring it into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

8. *Urges* the Executive Director further to increase the level of the financial reserve to 20 million United States dollars as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the bienniums 2006–2007 and 2008–2009;

9. *Recommends* that the Executive Director, in the light of possible financial constraints, take a cautious approach to the creation of additional posts under the Environment Fund programme;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress made so far in shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results and requests the Executive Director to continue that shift, ensuring that United Nations Environment Programme managers at all levels take responsibility for the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to keep Governments specifically informed, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis and the Governing Council at its regular and

special sessions, of the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including contributions and expenditures, and reallocations of the appropriations or adjustments of the allocations;

12. *Welcomes* the extensive consultations between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing the draft budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009 and requests the Executive Director to continue such consultations for the preparation of each biennial budget and programme of work;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013 with a clearly defined vision, objectives, priorities, impact measures and a robust mechanism for review by Governments, for approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session;

14. *Expresses* its appreciation to those Governments which have contributed to the Environment Fund in the biennium 2006–2007 and appeals to all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, in cash or in kind, in order to permit the full implementation of the programme;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to step up his efforts to mobilize resources from all sources, in order further to broaden the donor base and to enhance income levels;

16. *Also requests* all Governments, where possible, to pay their contributions before the year to which the contributions relate, or at the latest at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;

17. *Further requests* all Governments, where possible, to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund at least one year in advance of the year to which they relate and, if possible, on a multi-year basis;

18. *Approves* the recommendation by the Executive Director that the outstanding pledges for the period 2001–2002 should not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes;

19. *Approves* the proposed staffing tables under the Environment Fund biennial support budget for 2008–2009 as set forth in the relevant report of the Executive Director;

20. *Notes* that an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi or the United Nations Environment Programme in the biennium 2008-2009 would decrease the requirement under the Environment Fund biennial support budget, thereby releasing resources which should be reallocated for the programme activities or the Environment Fund financial reserve;

21. *Calls for* an allocation of an appropriate share of the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme;

22. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which underlined the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget, looks forward to the implementation of the requests of the General Assembly to the United Nations Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review, so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the United Nations Environment Programme and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

23. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide financial details of work programmes to Governments in accordance with article VI of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, if so requested;

24. *Also requests* the Executive Director, further to article VI of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund, to make available to Governments, twice a year, information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work and further requests that the information be structured in accordance with the programme of work;

25. *Further requests* the Executive Director to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on a quarterly basis, with comprehensive information on all financial facilities made available for the United Nations Environment Programme, including core funding, the Environment Fund, earmarked funds and payments by the Global Environment Facility and other sources, in order to contribute to the transparency of the overall financial status of the United Nations Environment Programme during the biennium 2008–2009;

26. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, apart from those for which the United Nations Environment Programme merely acts as treasurer, are used to fund activities which are in line with the programme of work;

27. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to propose ways and means of addressing the balance between non-earmarked and earmarked funding of the programme of work and to ensure clarity with respect to resources and expected results;

28. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2010–2011;

29. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, for the biennium 2010–2011 a programme of work consisting of Environment Fund programme activities amounting to an indicative figure of 140 million United States dollars;

30. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue submitting, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined draft budget and work programme for the biennium 2010–2011 for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session;

31. *Further requests* the Executive Director to give high priority to the effective and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[37] emphasizing the importance of South-South cooperation, in particular the efforts directed towards institutional capacity-building and the strengthening of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme as part of the implementation of the approved programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009;

32. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment and, where appropriate, to assist Governments upon their request to integrate environmental policy and decision-making into social and economic policies on poverty eradication, in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as part of the implementation of the approved programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009;

33. *Encourages* Governments to support the full and effective implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including through the provision of adequate resources;

34. *Requests* the Executive Director, in exercising his authority to reallocate resources, reconfirmed in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present decision, and in drawing on the Fund Programme reserve, to give particular attention to high-priority areas;

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37 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

35. *Also requests* the Executive Director to undertake further action to mainstream the objectives of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building into the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular in the context of the 2008–2009 programme of work, with a view to bringing more focus into the work of the Programme, making the Programme more relevant on the ground and improving the delivery of Programme services to Governments.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/10: Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

The Governing Council,

Trust funds in support of the United Nations Environment Programme work programme

1. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty-third session of the Governing Council:

(a) General trust funds:

SML – General Trust Fund for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Quick Start Programme, with an expiry date of 30 November 2013;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) NFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement between UNEP and the Government of Norway (financed by the Government of Norway) which was established in 2006 with no fixed expiry date;

(ii) SEL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Sweden (financed by the Government of Sweden) which was established in 2005 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;

(iii) SFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement between UNEP and the Government of Spain (financed by the Government of Spain) which was established in 2006 with an expiry date of 31 December 2012;

2. *Approves* the extensions of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or donors:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) AML – General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, through 31 December 2009;

(ii) CWL – General Trust Fund for the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) through 31 December 2009;

(iii) DUL – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Dams and Development Unit to Coordinate Follow-up to the World Commission on dams through 31 December 2009;

(iv) ETL – Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean through 31 December 2009;

(v) MCL – General Trust Fund in Support of a Global Assessment of Mercury and its Compounds through 31 December 2009;

(vi) WPL – General Trust Fund to provide Support to the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office and to Promote its Activities through 31 December 2009;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) BPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (Financed by the Government of Belgium) through 31 December 2009;

(ii) ELL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa through 31 December 2009;

(iii) GNL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Financed by the Government of the Netherlands) through 31 December 2009;

(iv) IAL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Ireland Aid Multilateral Environment Fund for Africa (Financed by the Government of Ireland) through 31 December 2009;

(v) REL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region through 31 December 2009;

(vi) SEL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Sweden (Financed by the Government of Sweden) through 31 December 2010;

3. *Approves* the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications:

(i) PPL – General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation and Negotiation of an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade;

(ii) SDL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Secondment of a UNEP Senior Officer to the CSD Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (Financed by the Government of the Netherlands);

Trust funds in support of conventions, regional seas protocols and special funds

4. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty-third session of the Governing Council:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) AVL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contribution in respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) established in 2006 with an expiry date of 31 December 2008;

(ii) MVL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contribution in Support of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) established in 2006 with an expiry date of 31 December 2008;

(iii) SCL – General Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, its subsidiary Bodies and the Convention Secretariat which was established in 2006 with no fixed expiry date;

(iv) SVL – Special Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, its Subsidiary Bodies and the Convention Secretariat which was established in 2006 with no fixed expiry date;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) CCL – Technical Cooperation Trust for the Management of UNEP/GEF Special Climate Change Fund Programme (SCCF) with no fixed expiry period;

(ii) VBL – Voluntary Trust Fund to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity established in 2006 with an expiry date of 31 December 2008;

5. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) BCL – Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal through 31 December 2010;

(ii) BDL – Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and other Countries in need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal through 31 December 2010;

(iii) BEL – General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity through 31 December 2009;

(iv) BGL – General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Protocol through 31 December 2009;

(v) BHL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities of the Biosafety Protocol through 31 December 2009;

(vi) BTL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of the European Bats through 31 December 2010;

(vii) BYL – General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity through 31 December 2009;

(viii) BZL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity through 31 December 2009;

(ix) CRL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme through 31 December 2009;

(x) CTL – Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora through 31 December 2011;

(xi) EAL – Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region through 31 December 2011;

(xii) ESL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas through 31 December 2009;

(xiii) MEL – Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution through 31 December 2009;

(xiv) PNL – General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region through 31 December 2009;

(xv) ROL – General Trust Fund for the Operational Budget of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade through 31 December 2008;

(xvi) SOL – General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations relevant to the Vienna Convention through 31 December 2015;

(xvii) WAL– Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of West and Central African Region through 31 December 2011;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) BIL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties, in particular the Least Developed and the Small Island Developing States amongst them, and Parties with Economies in Transition (Biosafety Protocol) through 31 December 2009;

(ii) GFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility with no fixed expiry period;

(iii) RVL – Special Trust fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade through 31 December 2008;

6. *Approves* the closure of the following trust fund by the Executive Director subject to completion of its activities and clearance of all financial implications:

SPL - Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the UNEP/GEF Strategic Partnership.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/11: Intensified environmental education for achieving sustainable development

The Governing Council,

Aware of the importance of having a critical mass of human resources and change agents for the effective implementation of existing policies on environment and development in the global context and the role of environmental education in achieving such a critical mass,

Recalling the relevance of environmental education as acknowledged in international policies and strategies including Agenda 21[38] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[39] which lead the United Nations General Assembly to declare the decade 2005–2014 to be the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,[40]

Convinced of the importance of environmental education and awareness in changing attitudes, habits and lifestyles,

Recognizing the importance of voluntary compliance in achieving environmental policy goals, objectives and targets,

Also recognizing the importance of a lifelong process of learning,

Further recognizing the need for a holistic approach to environmental policy development and implementation;

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[38] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1) vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[39] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[40] General Assembly resolution 58/219 of 23 December 2003.

Acknowledging the role of environmental education as a highly effective tool for building an environmentally sensitive and responsive populace capable of partnering with Governments in achieving established policy goals and targets,

Urges the Executive Director to intensify the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of environmental education;

Also urges the Executive Director to continue to strive to make available resources for promoting and supporting environmental education programmes, projects and activities, particularly in developing countries, and to keep Governments informed of the progress achieved.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/12: South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development

The Governing Council,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in particular as it pertains to South-South Cooperation, which recognizes the achievements and great potential of South-South cooperation and encourages the promotion of such cooperation, which complements North-South cooperation as an effective contribution to development and as a means of sharing best practices and providing enhanced technical cooperation,

Noting the various South-South summits and other relevant international forums which have called for enhancing South-South cooperation,

Recognizing the need to accelerate the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[41] which, among other things, identifies South-South cooperation as a means to achieve its objectives,

Also recognizing the importance of South-South cooperation and stressing the need to intensify efforts directed towards institutional capacity-building, including through the exchange of expertise, experiences, information and documentation between the institutions of the South in order to develop human resources and strengthen the institutions of the South, as well as the important role for economic and social development played by scientific knowledge and technology,

Underscoring that South-South cooperation and utilizing the experiences, expertise, technologies, human resources and centres of excellence already existing in several countries of the South would assist the United Nations Environment Programme in the faster and better implementation of its programme of work as well as more economical use of its resources and budget,

Noting with appreciation the action taken by the United Nations Environment Programme to date to promote South-South cooperation in pursuit of the objectives of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including the High-level Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan held in Jakarta on 23 and 24 November 2005, as well as the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership-United Nations Environment Programme Workshop on Environmental Law and Policy jointly convened by the Governments of Indonesia and South Africa and the United Nations Environment Programme in Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia, from 12 to 16 December 2006 and the strategic guidelines for interregional cooperation between Africa and South America provided by the Africa-South America Summit on South-South Cooperation, held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 30 November 2006,

Noting the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme in conducting consultations with key external partners, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to

[41] UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

develop and promote the use of approaches to guide the United Nations Environment Programme in integrating South-South cooperation in its programme of work,

Emphasizing that the effective and further implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including through South-South cooperation, should be supported by adequate, stable and predictable financing for the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to give high priority to the effective and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and emphasizes that South-South cooperation constitutes an important means of achieving the objectives of the Plan;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the integration of South-South cooperation in undertaking activities under the approved programme of work and, to that end, to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organizations within and outside of the United Nations system;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to utilize the benefits of experience, expertise, technologies, human resources and centres of excellence already existing in several countries of the South to achieve the objective of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and the implementation of the programme of work, taking into account the more economic use by the United Nations Environment Programme of its resources and budget;

4. *Takes note of* the Bandung Roadmap for Advancement of Environmental Law in Support of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, as adopted at the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership-United Nations Environment Programme Workshop on Environmental Law and Policy, as well as other initiatives which present a concrete step forward for promoting South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development, particularly in areas where the United Nations Environment Programme has a comparative advantage in its expertise;

5. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations, where appropriate, to provide financial and other resources for further facilitating South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development through capacity-building and technology support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in line with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, including through the provision of a clearing-house mechanism on South-South cooperation supported through extra-budgetary funding;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the progress made in promoting South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session, in 2009.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/13: Amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.IV/1 of 18 June 1994 on the adoption of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility,

Recalling its decision 22/19 of 7 February 2003 on the adoption of amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility to include land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, and persistent organic pollutants as new focal areas of the Global Environment Facility, as approved by the Second Global Environment Facility Assembly,

Recalling the decision of the Third Global Environment Facility Assembly, held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 29 and 30 August 2006, on the amendment of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility,

1. *Decides* to adopt the amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility related to the location of meetings of the Council of the Global Environment Facility, as approved by the Third Global Environmental Facility Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the Chief Executive Officer or Chair of the Global Environment Facility.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/14: Declaration of the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification

The Governing Council,

Deeply concerned by the worsening effects of desertification,

Considering the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Considering the objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the Plan of Implementation[42] and the Johannesburg Declaration,[43] as well as the objective to reduce significantly the loss of biodiversity,

Recalling the Millennium Development Goals,[44] including the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and famine,

Considering the proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity,[45]

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, declaring the year 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Considering the recommendation approved at the international conference entitled "Desertification and the International Policy Imperative", held in Algiers from 17 to 19 December 2006,

Considering the decision adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment at its eighteenth session, held in Algiers on 19 and 20 December 2006,

Taking into account the programmatic and financial commitment of the Global Environment Facility to desertification control,

Determined to maintain and to boost the spirit of international solidarity generated by the designation of the year 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Reasserting its commitment to promoting desertification control, eradicating extreme poverty, promoting sustainable development in deserts and arid areas and improving the lives of affected populations,

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[42] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[43] *Ibid*, resolution 1, annex.

[44] Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/326), annex.

[45] General Assembly resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006.

Recommends to the United Nations General Assembly that it declare, during its 62nd session, the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade of Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/15: Provisional agendas, dates and venues for the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Environment Forum and the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 53/242 of 28 July 1999,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 57/283 B (paragraphs 9–11 of section II) of 15 April 2003 and 61/236 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2006,

Recalling further its own decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002,

I

Tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. *Decides* to hold the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2008;[46]

2. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work.
   (a) Adoption of the agenda;
   (b) Organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
   (a) State of the environment;
   (b) Emerging policy issues;
   (c) Environment and development.
5. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the session.

[46] The dates and venue of the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be decided in consultation with the Bureau of the Governing Council and the Member States.

II

Twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

3. *Decides* that, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum shall be held in Nairobi in February 2009;[47]

4. *Decides also* that informal consultations between heads of delegations should be held on the afternoon of the day before the opening of the twenty-fifth session;

5. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
   (a) State of the environment;
   (b) Emerging policy issues;
   (c) International environmental governance;
   (d) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters;
   (e) Coordination and cooperation with major groups;
   (f) Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility.
5. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.
6. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2010–2011 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters.
7. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
   (a) Eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
   (b) Twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
8. Other matters.

[47] The dates of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be decided in consultation with the Bureau of the Governing Council and the Member States.

9. Adoption of the report.

10. Closure of the session.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Decision 24/16: Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

A
Freshwater

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 22/2 of 7 February 2003 and 23/2 of 25 February 2005 regarding the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy,

Taking into account the policy directions for water-related activities of the United Nations Environment Programme as set out in, among other sources, relevant Governing Council decisions, the Millennium Declaration,[48] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[49] the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development pertaining to water, sanitation and human settlements and the 2005 World Summit Outcome[50] as it pertains to water and sanitation,

Taking into account the comments made by Governments on the draft water policy and strategy submitted to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its ninth special session,

Also taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[51] and its relevance to the design and implementation of all United Nations Environment Programme activities,

Noting with appreciation the achievements made by the United Nations Environment Programme in implementing the updated water policy and strategy as described in the report of the Executive Director,[52]

1. *Adopts* the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2007–2012 contained in the annex to the present decision,[53] to be implemented with interested countries upon their request;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To use the water policy and strategy as a framework and guidance to direct the United Nations Environment Programme's programme of work in the field of water through the year 2012;

(b) To intensify collaborative activities with Governments, relevant organizations, United Nations agencies and other development partners and to intensify partnerships with civil society, including the private sector, to implement the water policy and strategy;

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[48] General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[49] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[50] General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 6 September 2005.

[51] UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

[52] UNEP/GC/24/4 and Add.1.

[53] The annex to the present decision is contained in the proceedings of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (UNEP/GC/24/12, annex I, decision 24/16, annex).

(c) To provide support upon request to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for implementation of the water policy and strategy within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

(d) To increase support to developing countries for integrated water resource management in collaboration with, among others, UN-Water, the Global Water Partnership and regional and national institutions;

(e) To report on the implementation of the water policy and strategy to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth session;

3. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so to provide new and additional resources necessary for the implementation of the water policy and strategy.

B
Coasts, oceans and islands

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 22/2 of 7 February 2003 and 23/2 of 25 February 2005 regarding the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy, in particular paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision 23/2, welcoming the generous offer of the Government of the People's Republic of China to host in 2006 the second intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based activities,

Noting with appreciation the important contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme, the regional seas conventions and action plans, the Global Environment Facility and other international and regional institutions in catalyzing the implementation of the Global Programme of Action while recognizing the financial constraints on such implementation, particularly at the national level, and the consequent need for resource mobilization and support,

Acknowledging the successful results and achievements of the Global Programme of Action in the period 2002–2006, particularly at the national level, and the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action as well as the successful results and achievements of the participants at the second intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action, which took place in Beijing from 16 to 20 October 2006, including the valuable contributions made by the participants in the multi-stakeholder partnership workshops during the meeting,

Welcoming the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme Pacific subregional strategy as noted in the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of decision 23/5 of 25 February 2005 on small island developing States,[54]

1. *Endorses* the Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities[55] and takes note of the outcomes of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as detailed in the report of that meeting;[56]

2. *Adopts* the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office programme of work for the period 2007–2011, as endorsed by the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting[57];

3. *Invites* international and regional financial institutions, in particular the Global Environment Facility, and calls upon donor countries to continue to support the implementation of the Global

[54] UNEP/GC/24/5.
[55] UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/7, annex V.
[56] UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/7.
[57] UNEP/GC/24/INF/18, annex and addenda.

Programme of Action and to consider, as appropriate, increasing their contributions and technical assistance for building the capacity of developing countries, particularly small island developing States, to mainstream the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in national development programmes and budgets;

4. *Expresses its* appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for its continuing support in hosting the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office in the Hague and expresses special gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its hosting of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

10th meeting
9 February 2007

Annex II

President's summary of the discussions by ministers and heads of delegation at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme

Summary

1. Ministers and heads of delegation from 140 United Nations Member States attending the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 2007 held ministerial consultations to discuss the themes of globalization and environment and United Nations reform. During those consultations, the ministers and heads of delegation put forward their views on how to maximize the opportunities arising from globalization and discussed how to be better prepared to face the challenges it posed. In addition, they took note of the United Nations reform activities currently under way and the emerging consensus in areas where forward movement appeared possible. The aim was to place on record their opinions on how progress should be made in those areas over the coming months and to set out options for achieving that goal.

2. The twenty-fourth session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was attended by a significant number of heads of United Nations bodies. They included: Mr. Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Mr. Francesco Frangialli, Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization; Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organization; Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Director General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); and Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

3. The discussions were conducted under the leadership of the President of the Council/Forum, Mr. Roberto Dobles of Costa Rica, with the assistance of ministers and heads of delegation from Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Congo, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America.

4. In the panel and roundtable discussions which formed part of the ministerial consultations, the President of the Council/Forum was assisted by a number of distinguished scholars and leaders of civil society organizations. They included: Ms. E. Dano of the Third World Network; Mr. J. Gerber of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development; Mr. J. Leape of WWF International; Ms. J. Marton LeFevre of the World Conservation Union; Ms. J. McGlade of the European Environment Agency; Mr. J. Rockstrom of the Stockholm Environment Institute; Mr. G. Ryder of the International Trade Union Confederation; Mr. D. Runnalls of the International Institute for Sustainable Development; Mr. R. Ortiz-Menendez of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development; Ms. L. Tubiana of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (Institut du développement durable est des relations internationales (IDDRI)); and Mr. K. Otto-Zimmerman of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – Local Governments for Sustainability.

5. The President of the Council/Forum also had the benefit of contributions by the co-chairs of the informal consultative process initiated by the President of the United Nations General Assembly on the institutional framework for United Nations environmental activities, Mr. Enrique Berruga and Mr. Peter Maurer. Also assisting the President in the plenary discussions were Mr. Y. de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Mr. H. Diallo, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; and Mr. A. Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

6. A new format for the ministerial consultations, introduced at the current session, facilitated exchanges between ministers and heads of delegation and contributed to a rich, wide-ranging and interactive dialogue. The format consisted of panellists introducing the broad contours of topics in plenary to set the stage for smaller, simultaneous roundtable discussions. Participants in the roundtable discussions then reported their conclusions in plenary and received feedback from a final group of panellists. The discussions underscored the need to develop a range of clear and specific policy options based on the activities outlined in the present document, in close collaboration with trade and environment ministers and with relevant international agencies and stakeholders, and to prepare options on the matter to be presented to the Council/Forum at its tenth special session, in 2008, for consideration by ministers. The discussions also underscored the need for greater precision in future deliberations on the United Nations environment reform exercise.

7. The present document is a summary of the rich and interactive dialogue among the ministers and other heads of delegations attending the meeting; it reflects the ideas presented and discussed rather than a consensus view of all points.

8. The present document is issued without formal editing.

I. Summary of ministerial discussions on globalization and environment

A. Context

1. Globalization in its many dimensions (economic, social, ecological, political, technological and cultural) has become one of the main defining trends of our times, with significant consequences for the environment. As globalization is unfolding alongside growing evidence of serious degradation of the world's ecosystems, it is increasingly urgent for policy-makers, business leaders and civil society to consider the implications of these converging trends and make sure that globalization works for the environment and human well-being for all.[58]

2. The discussions on globalization and the environment were held both in plenary sessions through panel discussions and, for the first time in a session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in smaller roundtable discussions. The objective of the panel presentations in the plenary and roundtable discussions was to encourage an open and frank discussion on the main challenges and opportunities globalization presents for environmental protection and sustainable development. The aim was to identify tangible ways of making globalization more environmentally sustainable. The new format worked very well and the ministers and heads of delegations, as reported in the plenary sessions, made full use of it.

B. Discussions in Plenary

3. The discussions in plenary began with a panel discussion entitled "Globalization and the environment in a reformed United Nations". The panellists talked about the need to incorporate environmental dimensions into measures of growth and development so as to ensure that trade, industry, and tourism all contribute to sustainable human development. The panelists underlined that economic globalization is a reality and that no country is in a position to resist it. We must therefore proactively respond to the environmental challenges that globalization poses and equip ourselves to benefit from it.

4. A second panel discussion entitled "Overview" the ministers and heads of delegation debated the need to correct market failures to internalize environmental costs and the potential for using payments for ecosystem services to help ensure that the environment is taken into account. It was felt that UNEP could take on the challenge of developing methodologies and undertaking valuation of the environment to help support countries and inform trade and investment decisions at both the national and global levels. The next plenary panel, entitled "*Response options*", focused on what the multilateral system can do to respond to the needs of countries. In a final plenary session entitled "*Feedback*" the urgency of international action involving all stakeholders and the critical role of UNEP in the current policy debates was highlighted.

5. These plenary discussions helped provide the context for the ministerial roundtables discussions, which looked in further detail at the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization and helped to identify some concrete opportunities, challenges and options for Governments, UNEP and the international community to consider.

6. Discussions centred on the twin notions that globalization poses both risks and opportunities for the achievement of sustainable development. The underlying assumption of the discussions was recognition of the value of minimizing the negative impacts while maximizing the positive effects of globalization.

C. Opportunities

7. Ministers noted that globalization creates and enhances many opportunities for better promotion of sustainable development, provided that it is well managed to optimize the positive effects and minimize associated risks. Among the opportunities identified were:

[58] Discussions were carried out in line with relevant UNEP legislative mandates that have a direct bearing on globalization and the environment (see UNEP/GC/24/11 for further details).

(a) Poverty alleviation: By contributing to economic development and thus the alleviation of poverty, economic globalization provides many countries with greater means for environmental protection. There is an increasing awareness among Governments and business that the degradation of ecosystem services has real economic costs and is constraining future development. This awareness provides environment ministers with an opportunity to engage economic and trade policy makers in constructing new policies for sustainable development. Many speakers observed that poverty and environmental problems are interlinked;

(b) Harnessing market power: Economic globalization allows individuals, Governments, companies and organizations to harness the power of companies and markets in the service of sustainable development. Tools for such integration include voluntary initiatives with the private sector, such as the Tour Operators Initiative of UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization the United Nations World Tourism Organization, mechanisms for drawing on the power of consumers, such as certification schemes and valuation of and payments for ecosystem services. It was pointed out, however, that payment for ecosystem services is but the obverse of "polluter pays" and that the question of who pays and who receives should be resolved in relation to legitimate entitlements to environmental resources. A globalized economy also provides a larger market for environmental goods and services, which provides greater incentives for their development and production and greater possibilities for their dissemination;

(c) Environmental technology transfer: Another benefit of economic globalization lies in the possibility of easier and more widespread distribution of environmentally sound technologies. The need to promote research and development in clean technologies and a new compact on intellectual property rights to enhance dissemination of the same was stressed;

(d) Enhanced communication possibilities: International communication has become a very efficient and rapid tool, creating many channels for the distribution of environmental information. Better communication tools allow stakeholders interested in protecting the environment to work together more efficiently and effectively, for example in public-private-civil society partnerships.

D. Challenges

8. While acknowledging the myriad opportunities presented by globalization, ministers also agreed that globalization entails potential challenges to the achievement of sustainable development goals. Among the risks identified were:

(a) Uncontrolled growth in the context of inadequate governance: Economic globalization can lead to rapid development in different industry sectors. Particularly for sectors that have strong environmental impacts, such growth can pose problems if it is not well managed, such as where environmental governance, including laws and regulations, has not kept pace with economic globalization. While the "polluter pays" principle needs to be emphasized, harmonization of standards may force unacceptable economic and social costs for developing countries. Common but differentiated responsibilities were recognized;

(b) Competitiveness problems: Unfair competition in the market place owing to a lack of internalization of environmental costs and subsidies is exacerbated by economic globalization. If one community acts sustainably and another does not, the passive one may have an economic advantage. There is a need for a multilateral response to globalization to ensure a level playing field. In setting environmental standards and norms efforts should be made to ensure that competition is not impeded and that the public is informed of the scientific basis of the risks to be addressed and that due consultations are carried out with trade partners and relevant stakeholders;

(c) Rising energy demand and climate change: The livelihoods of the poor are most at risk in the face of environmental impacts like climate change linked with growing transport and travel and rising

energy use. This increased demand for energy, especially biofuels, may have negative consequences for biodiversity and ecosystems if not properly managed;

(d) Spread of invasive species: The tremendous increase in the flow of goods and people has led to an accelerated introduction of invasive species throughout the world;

(e) Spread of consumerism and the loss of cultural diversity: Economic globalization promotes standard patterns of consumption. The rapid dissemination of information made possible through globalization enables global actors to spread information, including marketing efforts, around the world. There is a concern that without an approach to maintaining traditional knowledge, globalization will lead to a decrease in cultural diversity. Increased consumption worldwide can lead to a proliferation of waste;

(f) Concentration of power, information and financial resources: The benefits of globalization, and its attendant economic development, do not always reach local communities. Economic globalization and the globalization of knowledge can widen the gap between the rich and the dispossessed (within and between nations). Local communities and civil society must be linked to the ongoing globalization process. In this context the empowerment of women as key players in small scale economic activities should be further pursued.

E. Options for action

9. Ministers presented and discussed various options for action for consideration by Governments, UNEP and the international community. The options enumerated below reflect views expressed during the discussions. Their inclusion does not mean that they are without controversy or that each option has been fully considered by each Government. They provide for Governments, UNEP and the international community a fertile source of ideas from which to undertake further exploration.

1. Actions by Governments

10. Possible actions by Governments include:

(a) Policy coherence and integration: Promote coherence between national environment, trade and sectoral (e.g., agriculture) ministries. Integrate environmental considerations into national development and poverty reduction strategies, trade negotiations and implementation and governmental and institutional bilateral assistance policies. Redirection of resources from the Millennium Development Goals agenda to the environment, a zero sum game between the environment and poverty alleviation, is not the way forward. Ensure decisions adopted in various international negotiating forums are consistent to avoid potential conflicts;

(b) National governance: Identify national environmental policy-making priorities in order to ensure adequate resources for implementation. Developed countries should provide leadership to ensure globalization contributes to sustainable development;

(c) Environmentally friendly technologies: Provide economic incentives and increased investment in research and development for environmentally friendly technologies. Promote the involvement of business and the financial sector in the development of these technologies;

(d) Economic instruments and valuation: Promote valuation of ecosystem services, greater use of green accounting (satellite) techniques and life-cycle analysis. Consider indicators such as quality of life, education, and health, not only gross domestic product, when measuring levels of development. Reduce or eliminate subsidies that distort prices of natural resources and adopt the polluter pays principle. Support the use of market-based mechanisms and consumer information;

(e) Impact assessment: Develop and implement tools for impact assessments at the national level. Strengthen and ensure public participation in this process;

(f) Public and private sector: Encourage public-private partnerships to promote sustainable development. Identify creative means for turning environmental protection into economic gain, such as businesses focused on environmentally-friendly consumption and production. Encourage industries to take voluntary measures to introduce more sustainable patterns of production. Understand, however, the limitations of private sector initiatives and ensure implementation of strong public sector rules and institutions;

(g) Others: Ensure full implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in word and deed. Reform national energy policies. Involve civil society in efforts to promote environmental sustainability. Design an educational system that reflects the long-term objectives of sustainable development. Develop systems that preserve and stock information using traditional knowledge and experience to ensure it is not lost in a rapidly globalizing world.

2. Actions by UNEP

11. There was widespread agreement that UNEP has an important role to play in helping countries seize environmental opportunities and minimize risks of globalization. Many of the roundtables proposed that UNEP be strengthened, especially to enable it to deal with the environmental implications of globalization. Some expressed support for further exploring proposals to transform UNEP into a specialized agency, while others preferred that UNEP be strengthened as it retains its present structure. Yet others felt that strengthening UNEP would make it more effective in implementation of its mandate. All agreed that greater financial resources would be required for the various suggested initiatives listed above. Specific ideas to emerge from the roundtables for possible UNEP follow up and future considerations by the Governing Council include:

(a) Linkages: Explore and develop a conceptual framework on the linkages between globalization, ecosystem services, human well-being, fairness and equity, possibly through an informal consultative process involving Governments, civil society, the private sector and relevant international organizations;

(b) Trade and environment: Contribute substantively to the dialogue on global trade to help shape trade-related rules and institutions which affect the environment. Work with the World Trade Organization on the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment, i.e., the benefits of environment for trade and the benefits of trade for environment;

(c) Economic instruments: Promote the use of incentive measures and market mechanisms to steer production and consumption patterns towards environmental sustainability. Strengthen work on promoting economic instruments (such as environmental accounting and fiscal policy) for environmental protection and sustainable investments. Develop criteria for internalizing environmental costs (pricing), identify barriers for internalization of costs and support developing countries (and others) in the application of such criteria;

(d) Ecosystem services: Provide guidance and support to Governments on the payment for and valuation of ecosystem services. Consolidate valuation methodologies and techniques and undertake valuation of natural resources at the global and national levels. Improve integration of ecosystem services in national development processes and poverty reduction strategies;

(e) Capacity-building and technology transfer: Strengthen the capacities of ministries of environment to help them in their dialogue with other ministries and sectors. Promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including both clean and efficient technologies. Identify environmental friendly technologies at the global level and support their implementation at the national level, ensuring a balanced mix of modern and traditional knowledge and technology. These could be undertaken as part of the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

(f) Partnerships: Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience between countries by creating a network of institutions. Establish new mechanisms for information exchange, advisory services and collaboration between UNEP and other relevant forums to assist in mainstreaming environmental considerations in intergovernmental deliberations;

(g) Policy guidance: Provide guidance in outlining a set of principles for sustainable outsourcing, investing and trading in a globalized world (in collaboration with relevant agencies and other relevant stakeholders including the private sector) for industry and large corporations to guide their interventions and investments in developing countries. Monitor and evaluate existing global environmental objectives and actions;

(h) Multilateral environmental agreements: Promote coordination and collaboration between multilateral environmental agreements to maximize the use of resources and achieve synergies. Support effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the national level;

(i) Way forward: A number of countries suggested that the UNEP Executive Director develop a range of clear and specific policy options based on the activities outlined above in close collaboration with ministers of environment and trade and with relevant international agencies and stakeholders and prepare options on this matter and present these to the special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2008 for the consideration of ministers.

3. Actions by the international community

12. Possible actions by the international community include:

(a) International coordination among intergovernmental organizations: Promote coherence and coordination between international organizations working on issues related to sustainable development (UNEP, UNDP, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UN-Habitat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNIDO). Establish new mechanisms for information exchange, advisory services and collaboration among international organizations to assist in mainstreaming environmental considerations in intergovernmental deliberations and implementation processes. Strengthen and revitalize international organizations in order to facilitate and promote inter-sectoral dialogue in national Governments. Strengthen enforcement and compliance mechanisms of multilateral environmental agreements;

(b) Governance: Strengthen international environmental governance to respond to globalization processes and to ensure greater parity among international organizations promoting sustainable development (e.g. multilateral environmental agreements and the World Trade Organization). Invite the United Nations Secretary-General to include globalization issues in the current international environmental governance discussions;

(c) Other issues: Develop both technologies and technology transfer mechanisms relevant to least developed countries, as well as capacity-building activities to support such technology transfer.

II. Summary of ministerial consultations on United Nations reform

13. Ministers presented and discussed various options for action for consideration by Governments, UNEP and the international community. The options enumerated below reflect views expressed during the discussions. Their inclusion does not mean that they are without controversy or that each option has been fully considered by each Government. They provide for Governments, UNEP and the international community a fertile source of ideas from which to undertake further exploration.

A. Context

14. The current discussions on environmental governance take place in the framework of United Nations reform measures approved by heads of State and Government in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Paragraph 169 of the Outcome document sets out areas for further reflection on the current institutional framework of United Nations environment work. These areas include: enhanced coordination; improved policy advice and guidance; strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation; better treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of the treaties; and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building.

15. The General Assembly established an informal consultative process to consider these areas, which commenced in March 2006. At the same time the Secretary General, as mandated by paragraph 169, convened a High-level Panel on System Wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. The report of the Panel has been transmitted to the General Assembly, but has yet to be considered.

16. The informal consultative process in the General Assembly culminated in a co-chairs summary which has formed the basis for further consultations that commenced in January 2007. The backdrop to the discussions on improved environmental governance finds its genesis in the "Cartagena Outcome" contained in UNEP Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance, adopted in February 2002.

17. The aim of the panel and roundtable discussions at the current session was to provide further impetus to implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan and UNEP partnerships with other United Nations system entities, as well as to provide input to the ongoing and forthcoming discussions in the General Assembly.

B. Plenary sessions

18. The discussion commenced in a plenary session entitled "Overview", with an introduction by one of the co-chairs of the General Assembly informal consultative process, following which panellists from Germany, India and the United States of America intervened. It was emphasized that environmental challenges needed to be integrated into development planning and economic strategies. Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan would assist in this regard, as would encouraging new partnerships between UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO and others in the United Nations system.

19. Support was expressed for a reformed United Nations institution for the environment as well as for an increase in its financial resources. Complex, growing and interlinked environmental challenges urgently require coordinated responses, including in policy sectors other than environment. A variety of measures were discussed, including better coordination among the institutions currently involved in the environment, more cooperation with multilateral agencies with economic and developmental mandates, strengthening UNEP or upgrading it into a specialized agency with the commensurate authority to foster better coordination, and the establishment of a new United Nations environment organization. The introductory plenary session set the stage for six ministerial round table discussions that explored the challenges, opportunities and possible improvements with respect to environmental governance.

20. At a concluding plenary session, entitled "Feedback", ministers and heads of delegation heard from a number of panellists including ministers from Congo, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as representatives from WWF International, IDDRI and the Third World Network. They pointed out that the urgency and magnitude of environmental problems had outgrown the capacity of existing institutions and that meant that a United Nations environment organization or a strengthened UNEP was necessary. It was underscored that the Secretary General of the United Nations should take urgent steps to advance this process in the United Nations General Assembly. It was mentioned

that a reformed United Nations institution for the environment should have closer relations with the World Bank and the World Trade Organization. In reference to the report of the High-level Panel on System Wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, it was suggested that UNEP should co-chair the proposed sustainable development board.

21. It was further stressed that United Nations reform should provide greater opportunities for developing countries and civil society to contribute more towards international governance. The United Nations must reflect the current reality that its vast membership is from the developing countries and therefore must ensure that its governance structures and decision making respond to this reality.

C. Challenges

22. There was wide agreement that while the international community had created a variety of bodies to deal with environmental issues, deterioration of natural resources had not been successfully halted or reversed. Uncoordinated approaches at the global, regional and national levels, as well as duplication and fragmentation of mandates, had exacerbated this situation.

23. Lack of coordination was not limited to the United Nations system, but also involved Governments, the private sector and civil society. In the United Nations system the respective mandates of the various agencies, funds and programmes should be better coordinated.

24. There is increased recognition that environmental issues are interlinked not only with development and sustainable economic growth, but also with trade, agriculture, health, peace and security and that these interlinkages increased the need for global environmental leadership.

25. While UNEP, as the environmental pillar of the United Nations system, has achieved important results in discharging its mandate, a lack of sufficient and stable funding has hampered its ability to address emerging threats. The magnitude and severity of environmental challenges in relation to climate change, biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystem services threaten to overwhelm the United Nations response and are already constraining prospects for economic development in many countries and regions.

26. The need for predictable resources for UNEP to effectively fulfil its mandate and the expectations of the international community was, however, only one problem that needed to be addressed. With regard to the Global Environment Facility, the roles of the implementing agencies required more attention, as did the relationship between UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank on the one hand and the multilateral environmental agreements on the other.

27. Mainstreaming gender in addressing environmental deterioration continued to present a challenge, as did equity concerns relating to costs associated with the negative impacts of unsustainable management of the environment. These areas require further reflection.

28. With regard to changes to the institutional structures that deal with the environment, a number of countries said that there was a need to discuss the issue of the restructuring of UNEP based on a detailed proposal with the basic elements required to strengthen global environmental governance, including various options and with specific reference to the role of UNEP, and that such a detailed proposal should be formulated for consideration by Governments.

29. There is often a lack of coordination among relevant government ministries with responsibility for the environment at the national level. Implementation of multilateral environmental agreement obligations at the domestic level is often hampered by a lack of capacity. Many Governments feel burdened by a proliferation of reporting requirements, a drain on technical expertise and a multitude of international meetings.

D. Opportunities

30. The current United Nations reform process presented an opportunity for strengthening United Nations environmental activities; options for reforming or upgrading UNEP should be seen in this context. A steady increase in the political attention being accorded to the environment has supported this process and there is growing recognition that environmental sustainability can not be de-linked from sustainable development and economic growth. Mainstreaming the environment across other sectors, and in the process enhancing the role of environment ministries, would allow such integration.

31. The view was expressed that there was a need for greater effectiveness in disseminating existing knowledge available in scientific institutions and for UNEP to improve its scientific base, as well as its monitoring, assessment and early warning capacity. UNEP should also expand its partnerships with the private sector and civil society and incorporate results-based management.

32. Full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan was stressed as a vehicle to assist developing countries in building their capacities to address environmental challenges. This would require additional funding and an emphasis on partnerships between UNEP, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders.

33. Strong support was expressed for the increase in cooperation between UNEP and UNDP, as it would address requests for UNEP to have an operational capacity and enhance effectiveness in environmental capacity-building. The ongoing pilot programmes jointly undertaken by UNEP and UNDP could be expanded to tackle complex subregional environmental challenges.

34. Some suggestions focused on the need for UNEP to have a country presence on a temporary basis as required or through UNDP representation. It was also proposed that United Nations resident coordinators should ensure joint programming and full integration of environmental dimensions in project activities.

E. Possible options/improvements for environmental governance

35. Proposals were made for UNEP to receive greater political authority and for it to have the ability better to coordinate global responses to environmental threats and regional and national implementation. Some suggestions related to an enhanced role for UNEP as the United Nations authority on environment in increasing the coherence of the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the national level, while its regional offices could be strengthened better to take into account regional environmental needs. Some suggestions focused on UNEP establishing regional centres for capacity-building and technology transfer.

36. Various ideas were voiced on whether clustering of multilateral environmental agreements could bring about synergies and coherence. These ranged from sectoral clustering to administrative improvements. Some suggestions centred on the role that UNEP could play in ensuring programmatic interlinkages and synergies among multilateral environmental agreements, while proposals were also made that would require the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements to explore the frequency of meetings, rationalization of knowledge management and the development of a consistent and methodological approach to enforcement and compliance measures.

37. With regard to improving institutional structures it was widely agreed that any new or improved entity should be based in Nairobi and should build on the current strengths of UNEP. Some suggestions favoured the strengthening of UNEP within its current mandate, while there was significant support for upgrading UNEP to a specialized agency. With regard to the proposal to establish a United Nations environment organization, however, a divergence of opinions persists.

38. While some are of the view that such an organization could provide better political guidance, legitimacy and effective coordination, others remain unconvinced that it is necessary or desirable, that

funding for a new institution would be at higher levels than UNEP has at present or that it would ensure efficiencies. Continued discussions on the possible establishment of a United Nations environment organization, which would also be part of the United Nations system, should not detract from the current need to strengthen UNEP. In that regard it was important to elucidate the functions required to be delivered before agreeing on the form that any such institution might take. Other views expressed took into account the various mandates that exist in the field of the environment and the possibility that an umbrella type arrangement could facilitate synergies, coordination and inter-linkages. A reformed or upgraded UNEP could fulfil this role.

39. Discussions have demonstrated the need for greater precision in the future deliberations on the United Nations environment reform exercise. In that regard ministers took note of the growing consensus in areas where forward movement is possible and options for such progress to be developed in the next several months. They also undertook, as stewards of environmental sustainability in their respective countries, to provide leadership and proposals for taking the United Nations reform process forward. A number of countries requested that the Executive Director assist them through regional and other mechanisms in obtaining relevant information to enable them to engage meaningfully in efforts to strengthen UNEP.

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